

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 3-12, 15-16 and 25-32 will be pending in the application.

Status of Claims:

Patent claims 1 and 2 were canceled in the previously-filed reply.

Patent claim 5 has been amended to address the objection to that claim as indicated in the Office Action.

Patent claims 3, 4 and 6-12 remain pending as previously presented.

Claims 13, 14 and 17-24 that were added by way of this reissue application have been canceled in a previously-filed reply, with their "canceled" status included in this reply.

Claims 25, 26, 29 and 30 that were added by way of this reissue application were amended in a previously-filed reply to place each of those claims in independent form, to include the features of their respective base claim (there are no intervening claims). Those claims are included in this reply in their current state.

Claims 15, 16, 27, 28, 31 and 32 that were added by way of this reissue application are also included in this reply in their current state.

Rejection of Claims based on Defective Reissue Declaration:

In the final Office Action, claims 3-12, 15, 16 and 25-32 were rejected as being based on a defective reissue declaration. By way of this Amendment and Reply, a Supplemental Reissue Declaration is being submitted, which includes the language provided on page 2 of the final Office Action. Therefore, this rejection has been overcome by way of the filing of the Supplemental Reissue Declaration.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would advance prosecution of the application, however, he or she is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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